

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 7 of the specification beginning with “Although not shown, the tire 10 may further include ...” with the following amended paragraph:

Although not shown, the tire 10 may further include other components such as a belt or belts, belt plies, plies, cords, and an air impermeable liner. The tread portion may include grooves 38 and ribs 40. The grooves 38 and the ribs 40 may take on any known tread pattern or tread design. The ribs 40 that form the side surface are separated from a central region of the tread by a circumferentially extending groove. The low friction material is spaced from the tread surface by a distance that is less than the depth of the circumferentially extending groove.